

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

### MEETING OF OCTOBER 15, 1929

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8:00 P. M., on October 15, 1929, in the American Museum of Natural History; President Wm. T. Davis in the chair, with fifteen members and five visitors present.

Notices were given of the meeting on November 21, of Economic Entomologists, of the new Cassino Directory, and of the publication of the letters of E. A. Schwarz.

In a discussion on insect behavior, Mr. Schwarz told of a brood of scorpions born in the museum which lived on the back of the mother and were in part devoured by her.

Mr. Ragot added some similar information from observations made in Mexico; and Mr. Curran suggested that those eaten might have been dying.

Some experiences with mantis were given by Mr. Ragot and Mr. Davis. Mr. Marks remarked on their eyes being apparently of little use; Mr. Bromley spoke of the short distance insect sight may carry, and Mr. Davis mentioned longhorn grasshoppers depending on antennal information.

Mr. Burke spoke of his collections of Odonata, particularly of *Libellula axilina* and *L. vibrans*.

Mr. Davis exhibited some interesting roaches with his observations on the imperfect ootheca in *Panchlora cubensis* which will be printed in full.

Mr. Sherman spoke of *Allorhina nitida* used as toys by children at Norfolk.

Mr. Barber spoke of the European *Mantis religiosa* introduced at Rochester, N. Y., and found also by Mr. Burns on Long Island.

Mr. Chapin spoke of flies depositing eggs on a sick dog, the attraction being possibly, as suggested by Mr. Curran, the dirt.

After a general discussion on such oviposition the Society adjourned.

### MEETING OF NOVEMBER 19, 1929

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8:00 P. M., on November 19, 1929, in the American Museum of Natural History; President Wm. T. Davis in the chair, with twenty-five members and seventeen visitors present.

Mr. Davis Marks, of 25 West 68th Street, was elected a member.

Dr. Lutz, with lantern slide illustration, spoke of his "Observations on Leaf-Cutting Ants in Panama." His remarks have been printed in full in "Novitates."

Mr. P. J. Darlington, of Boston, present as a visitor, exhibited by lantern slides the localities in which he had made collections in South America.

He showed the region near Santa Marta in Columbia where a mountain range extends into the Peninsula of Guajira and carries the coast-line further north than Panama. There he found desert with cactus, fresh-water swamps and dense forests penetrated by mountain torrents. During the dry season the bed of these mountain waters courses furnished good collecting. Continuing his description of this part of South America he showed mountain scenes up to a tree line at 11,000 ft. and even beyond it to summits at 15,000 feet or over, presenting an interesting picture of a region still little known though visited by early Spanish explorers.

Mr. Davis exhibited a melanistic example of the Carolina grasshopper, found by Mr. Angell at Englewood, N. J., as well as a number of the usual form of the species.

#### MEETING OF DECEMBER 3, 1929

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8:00 P. M., on December 3, 1929, in the American Museum of Natural History; President Wm. T. Davis in the chair, with twenty members and fifteen visitors present.

Mr. George De Ghika, 25 Broadway, New York City, and Mr. Herman Moennich, Little Neck, N. Y., were elected members of the Society.

Mr. Davis exhibited the recent book on Mosquitoes by Robert Matheson.

Mr. Huntington spoke on "A Trip to Lesser Antilles and Trinidad," with illustration by lantern slides from photographs made by his companion, Mr. Robert Brown.

The trip, which occupied six weeks in all, of which three weeks were spent on Trinidad, resulted in finding there thirty-six species of *Lycænidæ* and ninety species of *Hesperidæ*. Of the latter twenty species were not listed by Kaye and nine are still unidentified. With the help of a number of lantern slides Mr. Huntington showed many features of the Lesser Antilles, including St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. Kitts, Nevis, Antigua, Guadeloupe, Dominica, Martinique, St. Lucia and Barbadoes. In Trinidad the pitch lake and the commercial operations there conducted were shown.

Mr. Huntington's descriptions of the pools of the pitch lake in Trinidad brought forth a comment by Mr. Curran on the fish found in them, and a discussion in which Mr. Huntington took part, of the manner in which the fish reached such situations.

Mr. Davis showed five species of cicadas from Barro Colorado Island in the Canal Zone, collected by Prof. George C. Wheeler, Howard H. Cleaves and C. H. Curran.

Mr. Curran said that cicadas were sufficiently abundant on the island but that there was great difficulty in getting near them in the woods.

Mr. Curran read a report on the insects collected at the station in Harri-man State Park. Of Diptera he said 540 species had been found, many new to the State List and thirty new to science. The report on the Lepidoptera was incomplete but the estimated total was about 1,100 species.

## MEETING OF DECEMBER 17, 1929

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8:00 P. M., on December 17, 1929, in the American Museum of Natural History; President Wm. T. Davis in the chair, with eighteen members and nine visitors present.

The president appointed as nominating committee Messrs. Barber, Sherman and Dr. Lutz.

The president announced the death of Mr. Notman's father; and change in the announced program thereby necessitated.

Mr. Engelhardt showed a portion of his collection of *Ægeriidae* pointing out that the scope of his investigations was an attempt to trace the life history of each species and its geographic races and varieties. As an example he showed the clear-wing moth inhabiting the clematis, *Alcathoe caudata*, and the varied forms it assumes in the Atlantic region and then westward and southward, known as *korites*, *pepsiodes*, *ferrugata* and *ver-rugo*. Then taking up the maple callus borer, *Synanthedon acerni*, and other species of that genus, he showed how by rearing the moths from pupæ found in known food plants, his data had been accumulated.

Dr. Hartzell spoke of his collections in Bermuda especially in *Cicadellidæ*. His remarks will later be printed in full.

Mr. Wm. T. Davis showed a box of dragon flies and stated that with the aid of the recently published "Handbook of the Dragon Flies of North America" several additions to the New York State List of Odonata had been detected in his collection. He said that he had in preparation a more complete list of additions, but gave the following as important:

*Erythrodiplax minuscula* Rambur. A southern species first detected on Staten Island by Mr. Joseph F. Burke during the summer of 1929. Several individuals were captured.

*Pantala hymenea* Say. Collected at Tottenville, Staten Island, July 12, 1925.

*Tramea abdominalis* Rambur. A southern species, a male of which was collected in the Clove Valley many years ago on the 21st of July.

Mr. Davis also exhibited a box of cicadas, containing a series of *cinctifera* Uhler from New Mexico, and specimens collected by Dr. Beamer at Eagle Pass, Texas, apparently related but not identical.

Mr. Mutchler exhibited the beetle *Gibbium psylliodes* and the white spherical cocoons made by its pupa. A more complete account will be published later by him.

Mr. Bromley spoke of the persistent character of the oviposition scars of the last brood and evidences of scars of seventeen and thirty-four years ago, their age being established by counting the annual rings. He spoke also of the abundance some years ago of the crepuscular dragon fly at a small lake in Massachusetts.

## MEETING OF JANUARY 7, 1930

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8:00 P. M., on January 21, 1930, in the American Museum of Natural

History; President Wm. T. Davis in the chair, with eighteen members and fifteen visitors present.

Mr. Barber, as chairman of nominating committee, moved the re-election of all officers. There being no other officers, they were re-elected.

Mr. Harold C. Hallock spoke with lantern slide illustration of "The Oriental Garden Beetle" (*Aserica castanea*) in America and its control. He showed how it first appeared on Long Island and its spread since into Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia, with the characters by which it is distinguished from allied species. The character of the injury and the plants attacked were discussed, together with the control methods including trapping which once yielded 21,000 specimens in a night. The application of arsenate of lead to the soil in which the larvæ work, as shown by the condition of the vegetation thereon, had proved somewhat effective. The volunteer work of birds was also helpful in reducing the number of larvæ.

Mr. Hallock's remarks were discussed by Messrs. Bromley, Barber, Mutchler, Davis and Dr. Leonard, especially in reference to the tendency of natural enemies and disease to overcome injurious insects in time. Several of the experienced economic entomologists thought this might be true of native insects, but not apparent in such introduced pests as the cotton boll weevil.

Mr. Davis gave some instances, as the bag worm and the Catalpa sphinx, where the parasites had caught up with the pest.

Mr. Angell closed the meeting by an exhibition of an artificial insect group from China.

#### MEETING OF JANUARY 21, 1930

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8:00 P. M., on January 21, 1930, in the American Museum of Natural History; President Wm. T. Davis in the chair, with fifteen members and three visitors present.

Mr. C. Wm. Wurster, 104 Fifth Avenue, New York, and Mr. Leon Vanderlen, 82 Washington Place, New York, were elected members of the Society.

Mr. Howard Notman made an address, illustrated by lantern slides, entitled "Another Transeontinental Collecting Trip." Entirely alone, Mr. Notman traveled in his auto through the southern and western states to the Pacific coast, returning by a different route to his summer home in the Adirondacks. About fifty locations, some in the coastal plain of the southern states, some at elevations of 1,100 feet in the Rockies or Sierra Nevada, others on the forested banks of rivers, or again in deserts or beside saline pools, were searched for fluviatile beetles. Once 700 beetles were caught in one day, and many thousands were caught on the trip, principally in the families *Carabidæ*, *Hydrophilidæ*, *Staphylinidæ*, *Heteroceræ*, and *Anthicidæ*. The genus *Bembidion*, which was the particular object of Mr. Notman's search, was represented by a large number of species; occasionally some species of *Ochthebius* or of *Heterocerus* were found in abundance.



In collecting so assiduously in variations of the river bank environment Mr. Notman made some interesting observations. Where there was a choice between sunlight and shade, the beetles, especially those feebly chitinized, always preferred the shade. In collecting along shores recently flooded it was found that most of the beetles had been driven away; while the river was rising, the collecting was good along the edge of the rising waters; but as the waters receded leaving banks covered with mud, the beetles were slow to return. *Heterocerus* seemed to come first, the *Scaritini* last. Mr. Notman also remarked upon the scarcity of carabid larvæ in places where the adults were abundant, though the larvæ of some other families, *Heteroceridæ* and *Staphylindæ*, for instance, were plentiful.

#### MEETING OF FEBRUARY 4, 1930

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8:00 P. M., on February 4, 1930, at the American Museum of Natural History; President Wm. T. Davis in the chair, and eighteen members and three visitors present.

In the absence of Mr. Leng, Miss Sherman was appointed Secretary pro tem.

The treasurer presented the annual report for 1929, duly audited.

The President called the attention of those present to the fact that the Committees for 1930 were the same as for 1929.

The speaker of the evening, Mr. Robert J. Sim, of Moorestown, N. J., then gave his paper on "Observations on Unrecorded or little Known Species of *Scarabæidæ* of New Jersey." He discussed twenty-two species, chiefly of the genera *Onthophagus*, *Aphodius*, *Odontæus* and *Serica*, not recorded in the Smith 1909 Catalogue. Mr. Sim's paper will appear in the Journal of the Society.

Mr. Bromley mentioned the occurrence in Missouri of a species of *Odon-tæus*, which flew with a buzzing sound at twilight, close to the ground.

Mr. Davis exhibited two specimens of *Polistes pallipes*, one taken as it was eating a live grasshopper which it had caught; the other, as it was eating into the head of a live Cicada. Mr. Davis stated that it is usual for *Polistes* wasps to seize soft buried caterpillars, etc., as their prey, but that on July 16, 1929, while at Old Place, Staten Island, he had seen a *Polistes pallipes* capture a small *Melanoplus* grasshopper, the body of which was 7 mm. in length. This of course was quite a tender individual owing to its small size. He exhibited the specimens and also referred to the Journal for June, 1924, where there is an account of a *Polistes* found eating a living *Cicada hieroglyphica* at Willard, Missouri, by Mr. A. E. Brower.

Mr. Curran exhibited a specimen of *Chionea*, a genus of apterous snow-flies, of the family *Tipulidæ*, mentioning that these flies, which are spider-like in appearance, are active only on the snow and ice in a low temperature and assume an attitude of death in warmer places. Their life history is unknown. Locality: Interstate Palisades Park, N. Y.

## MEETING OF FEBRUARY 18, 1930

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8:00 P. M., on February 18, 1930, in the American Museum of Natural History; President Wm. T. Davis in the chair, with nineteen members and thirteen visitors present.

Dr. Lutz read a paper, "Brief Notes on the Case-Making Instinct of Caddis-Fly Larvæ," which will be printed in full.

Mr. Nicolay spoke on "Beetling in Nova Scotia," illustrating his remarks by specimens and photographs. In August, 1929, he and Mrs. Nicolay had visited Lake Kedgemakooge, reaching their destination via Yarmouth and Annapolis Royal, thirty-five miles south of which the lake and its camps are situated. The Carabidæ were the predominant beetles; among those shown were *Bembidian umbraticum*, *Platynus metallescens*, *Lebia canonica*, *Apristus cordicollis*, and *Cicindela 12-guttata*. In *Buprestidæ*, *Chrysobothris verdigripennis* and *Melanophila fulvoguttata* were especially noted. The region traversed in reaching the lake was level and, for much of the distance, well cultivated. Mr. Nicolay commented on the absence of *Cydrini*, *Lycaenidæ* and *Hesperidæ*, and the unnecessary number of bulls, which led to several members recalling experiences with those animals.

Mr. Nicolay also recorded finding *Casonia ludoviciana* on October 19, in a swamp near the Hudson River at Piermont, N. Y.

The president announced the sailing, on February 13, of Mr. C. L. Pollars to Iquitos, Peru, via Para, to collect *Morphos* for Mr. Frank Johnson.